

SHERBORNE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



Annual Report of the
Medical Officer of Health
for the year
1963



Medical Officer of Health : NOEL F. PEARSON, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector : F. E. RAEBURN, M.A.P.H.I.

Council Offices,
STURMINSTER NEWTON,
Dorset.

1st June, 1964.

To The Chairman and Members
Sherborne Urban District Council

Madam and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report
for the year 1963.

The report is prepared and will be circulated
in accordance with the requirements of the Public Health
Officers Regulations, 1959.

Allowing for the smallness of numbers under
consideration, in general, the vital statistics compare
favourably with those for the Country as a whole.

Apart from an increased incidence of measles
throughout the year, there was no undue incidence of
other notifiable disease.

I am indebted to Mr. Raeburn your Public Health
Inspector for his co-operation and help during the year,
and for assistance in preparing this report. I am also
indebted to my clerk, Miss J. Shirley for her efficient
services.

I would also like to thank you, Madam and
Gentlemen, for your courtesy and consideration through-
out the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your Obedient Servant,

Medical Officer of Health.

SHERBORNE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR

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- A. Area - 1,650 acres
Rateable value: 1st April 1964 - £246,414
Production of a penny rate: 1963/64 - £923
1964/65 - £955

Vital Statistics

Population (Registrar General's Estimate) - 7,250

LIVE BIRTHS

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>		<u>Comparative Rates</u>	
				(a) <u>Sherborne</u> U.D.	(b) <u>England</u> & <u>Wales</u>
Total	35	55	1) Rate per 1,000		
Illegitimate	1	2	2) resident pop:		
			= 12.4	16.2	18.2

STILLBIRTHS

Total	2	1	1) Rate per 1,000		
Illegitimate	-	1	1) live & still-		
			births = 32.2	32.2	17.3

DEATHS

Total	48	41	1) Rate per 1,000		
			resident pop:		
			= 12.3	11.5	12.2

Deaths in Infants

Under 1 year	1	1	1) Infantile death		
Under 4 weeks	1	1	1) rate per 1,000		
Under 1 week	1	1	1) live births		
			= 22.2	22.2	20.9

		<u>1963</u>	<u>1962</u>	<u>1961</u>	<u>1960</u>
Deaths from	Maternal Causes	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
"	" Tuberculosis	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
"	" Cancer of the lungs	3	4	3	1
"	" Other Cancer	9	15	12	22
"	" Coronary Disease(Angina)	13	13	19	9
"	" Other Heart or Vascular diseases	31	34	37	31
"	" Influenza	1	Nil	1	Nil
"	" Pneumonia	8	6	6	2
"	" Motor vehicle accidents	1	3	1	Nil
"	" All other accidents	1	1	1	1
"	" Suicide	Nil	2	3	Nil
"	" Leukaemia & Aleukemia	2	Nil	Nil	Nil

B. Nature of the District

Sherborne is a trading centre of an agricultural area, as well as being a tourist and educational centre. Principal industries include light engineering, glove making, dairies and silk mills. The latter now produce glass fabrics and light engineering.

C. Health Services in the District which are not the responsibility of the District Council

The Hospital Service

The Yeatman Hospital (West Dorset Hospital Group of the Wessex Regional Hospital Board) provides the local hospital requirements, both in-patient and out-patient.

Laboratory Services

The Public Health Laboratory Service has again proved co-operative and efficient.

General Medical Practitioner, Ophthalmic and Pharmaceutical Services

These are administered locally by the Dorset Executive Committee.

County Council Services

The personal preventive health services are the responsibility of the County Council.

They comprise, the care of mothers and young children, maternity, school health, home nursing, mental health, the ambulance service, the care and after care of the tuberculous, blind and handicapped, health education, the domestic help service and the welfare of the aged.

Voluntary Services

Acknowledgment must be made to the excellent voluntary work carried out in the district by the British Red Cross Society, the Guild of Social Service and the meals on wheels service provided by the W.V.S.

Prevention of Disease

Prophylactic Inoculations Preventive inoculation against disease is the responsibility of the County Council through the school medical, child welfare and medical practitioner services.

An immunisation treatment session was held regularly in Sherborne on the third Friday in the month from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

During the year the following treatments were carried out.

	<u>1963</u>	<u>1962</u>	<u>1961</u>
<u>Poliomyelitis</u>			
Two treatments(Salk)	8	5	217
Three treatments(Salk or	88	226	259
Four treatments Oral)	103	24	444
<u>Diphtheria</u>			
Primary treatments	54	83	75
Booster treatments	44	59	43
<u>Whooping Cough</u>			
Primary treatments	52	78	71
Booster treatments	24	34	17
<u>Tetanus</u>			
Primary treatments	89	127	100
Booster treatments	45	45	37
<u>Smallpox</u>			
Primary vaccinations	11	160	60
Re-vaccinations	23	403	11

D. Environmental Health Services

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health (part time) - Noel F. Pearson
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

He also acts as Medical Officer of Health to four other District Councils in the North Dorset area and as Assistant County Medical Officer to the Dorset County Council.

The time available which he has to devote to his duties with your Council is slightly more than one half day per week.

Public Health Inspector - F.E. Raeburn, M.A.P.H.I.

At least one third of this Inspector's time is given to meat inspection.

Clerical Staff - Three clerks (part time)

WATER SUPPLY

<u>Rainfall</u>	-	<u>1963</u>	<u>1962</u>	<u>1961</u>
		28.58 ins.	29.01 ins.	28.47 ins.

Supplies remained satisfactory and adequate throughout the year.

Ninety regular monthly samples from the Council's supplies were submitted for bacteriological examination during the year and forty-four samples from private supplies which are in use for industrial purposes.

One industrial source gave unsatisfactory samples during the year and as this water supply was of considerable public health importance and no clear and safe reason was apparent to explain the unsatisfactory samples, the firm concerned agreed to use a chlorinated supply for its purposes.

All the houses in the district have a piped water supply from the Council's mains supply and no houses are dependent on standpipe supplies.

Wessex Water Board

The Board took over the Council's water undertaking as from October 1963.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

No serious troubles arose during the year with regard to the operation of the Councils sewerage works and disposal of the effluent into the River Yeo.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

House Refuse The Council's scheme provides for the collection of house refuse weekly and disposal by controlled tipping.

Salvage Fifty three tons of paper, two tons of rags and eleven tons of metal were collected during the year.

Cesspool Emptying No provision is required to be made in the district.

RIVERS AND STREAMS POLLUTION

No complaints were received during the year.

SHOPS ACTS

In addition to the Council's direct responsibilities under the Shops Act, 1950, the Council has also had delegated to it the County Council's functions under Section 38(3) (4) and (5) of the Act.

No. of inspections carried out	2
No. of defects found	Nil
No. of notices served	Nil
No. of notices complied with	Nil

All shops will be due for detailed inspection when the Offices Shops and Railway premises Act comes into force during 1964.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 (Nil figures not given)

	<u>No. of Premises on Register</u>	<u>Inspections</u>	<u>Written Notices</u>
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority	3	3	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	62	50	1
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	4	4	-
Total -	69	57	1

	<u>Found</u>	<u>Remedied</u>	<u>Referred by Factory Inspector</u>
Unreasonable temperature	1	1	-
<u>Sanitary Conveniences</u>			
Insufficient	1	-	-
Unsuitable or defective	4	4	-
Total	6	5	-

No. of outworkers (Wearing apparel) - 85

SMOKE ABATEMENT

Thirty observations were made during the year.

Only one serious contravention was noted. This was due to a breakdown of the oil feed system and was quickly rectified.

SWIMMING BATHS

There is one private swimming bath to which the public have access. Regular samples of the water from this and other private swimming baths in the district were taken during the year and all proved satisfactory.

CAMPING SITES

One licence was issued during the year under the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960. This was in respect to a permanent site for sixty one caravans at Quarry Lane.

VERMINOUS PREMISES

No action was called for.

Several treatments against clusters of flies (*musca autumnalis*) were carried out but this nuisance did not appear to be as prevalent as in previous years.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

The duties of the District Council under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949 are carried out in the district by the North Dorset Joint Rodent Committee whose activities cover the five districts in North Dorset and the Beaminster Rural District.

The total treatments undertaken in the district during the year numbered nine hundred and forty six compared with three hundred and three during the previous year. Seven hundred and forty six inspections were carried out.

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951

There are no premises subject to registration under the above-mentioned Act within the district.

PET ANIMLAS ACT, 1951

No. of licensed premises _____ 1
No. of inspections made _____ 5

SANITATION OF SCHOOLS AND SCHOOL CANTEENS

Regular inspections were made in all school canteens. The standard of hygiene was satisfactory.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 and 1951 - Section 47

No action was called for or taken during the year toward the compulsory removal of a person requiring care and attention under the Act.

NOISE ABATEMENT

No action was called for or taken during the year.

HOUSING

Total number of houses in the district _____ 2,159

Inspection of dwelling houses during the year -

No. of dwelling houses inspected during the	
year	30
No. of inspections made	50
No. of informal notices served	3
No. of informal notices complied with	3
No. of statutory notices served	Nil
No. of statutory notices complied with	Nil

No. of houses reported under Section 16 of the Housing Act, 1958 _____ 2

Action taken by the Local Authority in respect of such houses -

Demolition Orders made _____ Nil
Undertakings accepted for -

Closure	2
Reconditioning	Nil
Other Action	Nil

No. of houses included in Clearance Areas during the year _____ Nil

Slum Clearance

Apart from the representation to you of two individually unfit houses no action was taken during the year with regard to slum clearance. There are still a large number of houses in the district barely fit for human habitation and action with regard to these will be required when inspections called for, when the Housing Bill now before Parliament becomes law.

Overcrowding

No 'statutory' overcrowding came to notice during the year.

Houses Let in Lodgings

Two houses are known to be let in lodgings.

Improvement Grants

Applications for four 'Discretionary' and eleven 'Standard' improvement grants were received during the year, compared with four and fifteen respectively during the preceding year.

New Houses

Seven new houses were built by private enterprise during the year but none by the Council, compared with seven and eight respectively during the previous year.

A scheme for the provision of thirty one new dwellings in the Lenthay Road area was commenced during the year.

Twenty one families were housed by the Council during the year.

Waiting List

159 applicants were on the Council's housing waiting list at the end of the year compared with 217 a year previously.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES

1. Milk

Milk & Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959

No. of 'dealers' subject to registration by the District Council _____ 8

No. of 'dairies' in the district subject to registration _____ 2

No. of 'distributors' subject to registration _____ Nil

Samples

Forty four samples of milk in the District were taken during the year by your Public Health Inspector and submitted for examination. All samples passed the test.

In addition one hundred and fifty five samples were taken by Officers of the County Council.

Milk & Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959 - Regulation 20.

No action was called for or taken during the year.

2. Other Food Premises

The efficiency of a public health department can be measured by the extent to which the supervision of premises where food is prepared or sold, is carried out. Where such premises cannot be inspected at least twice a year with any necessary follow up visits, the department is failing to carry out its normal duty.

This standard of inspection has not been able to be maintained in your district during the past year, due to the increasing call on your Public Health Inspector's time by meat inspection.

The number of food premises in the area, by type of business:-

Hotels, restaurants, cafes and boarding houses	25
Canteens - School and Workplace	8
Confectioners	8
Meat and Fish	11
Grocers	9
Mixed Stores	10
Boarding Schools and other residential institutions	7
Food Factories	2
Stalls	4
Other	7

No. of food premises subject to registration under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 in respect of -

Ice Cream	35
Sausages & Prepared Meats	2
Fish and Chips	2

No. of samples of ice cream submitted for
Methylene Blue Test 87

84 of the above-mentioned 'food premises' were inspected during the year, 170 inspections being carried out.

9 notices were served during the year in relation to contravention of the Food (Hygiene) Regulations and fifteen verbal notices were given for minor infringements.

Carcases and Offal Inspected and Condemned

	Cattle Including Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	776	5,705	1,504	1,421
Number Inspected	776	5,705	1,504	1,421
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis & Cysticerci</u>				
Whole carcasses condemned	1	33	2	86
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	65	31	77	471
Percentage of the number inspected affected with diseases other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	8.51	1.15	5.25	39.19
<u>Tuberculosis Only</u>				
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	10
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	-	-	-	0.77
<u>Cysticercus</u>				
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	5	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	5	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-

Food Inspection

Butchers' and Other Shops

Quantities of Foodstuffs condemned -

Meat	-	430 lbs.
Other	-	115 lbs.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTIONS CARRIED OUT

Total No. of inspections (under all headings)	1,557
Total No. informal notices served	19
Total No. of informal notices complied with	19
Total No. of statutory notices served	2
Total No. of statutory notices complied with	2
Total No. of prosecutions	Nil

E. RADIATION HAZARDS

Any information available with regard to the results of monitoring background radiation from nuclear fall out by Central Departments suggest that no material deterioration in the position has taken place during the year.

F. NOTIFIABLE DISEASE

Other than tuberculosis -

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Total Cases Notified</u>
Measles	195
Sonne Dysentery	7
Para Typhoid B	1
Pneumonia	2

Tuberculosis -

<u>New Cases Notified</u>	
<u>Respiratory</u>	<u>Non-Respiratory</u>
3	-

Food Poisoning

There were no cases of food poisoning notified during the year.

NOEL F. PEARSON

Medical Officer of Health.

